



Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2004-2005

Services Provided by Rape Crisis Programs

Sexual assault is a serious social and public health problem in Massachusetts. Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, 2,691 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)-funded Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) and Llámanos, the statewide Spanish language helpline. Of these, 1,619 were reported by survivors themselves and an additional 1,072 were reported by family members, friends and professionals. In Massachusetts an estimated 22% of women and 7% of men experience sexual assault in their lifetime.ⁱ

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, three types of services were provided through the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services (SAPSS) program: 24-hour hotlines, education and outreach, and counseling and client advocacy. To carry out these activities, MDPH contracted with 17 locally-based RCCs across Massachusetts (some with multiple sites), Llámanos, and Jane Doe Inc., the state sexual assault prevention coalition. The information below summarizes services delivered over a one-year time period, July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005.

24-Hour Hotline Services

Hotline services were provided by each local rape crisis center (RCC) as well as Llámanos. Callers to the hotlines include sexual assault survivors, their significant others (such as friends, family members and partners), and professionals (such as physicians, teachers, or therapists). Hotline services were provided on an as-needed basis to these individuals for support and resource referrals. Because callers may use the hotlines repeatedly and anonymously, the number of calls to the hotlines is a measure of service use, not sexual assault incidents reported to DPH-funded RCCs or the number of individuals using the hotlines.

24-hour Hotline Services	Survivor calls	Significant Other calls	Professional calls	Total calls
RCCs	8,028	1,557	1,391	10,976
Llámanos	59	13	32	104
Total Calls	8,087	1,570	1,423	11,080

Educational Activities

Educational activities were offered through each RCC, Llámanos, and Jane Doe Inc. Education was provided for two main audiences: (1) non-professional populations such as students, civic organizations, or faith-based groups; and (2) professional audiences such as health care providers, police, or teachers. As a statewide coalition, Jane Doe Inc. provided many types of educational services; the Jane Doe Inc. numbers presented below reflect only Jane Doe Inc.'s major conferences and statewide training sessions funded by MDPH.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Bureau of Family and Community Health ♦ Division of Violence and Injury Prevention
 250 Washington Street, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 624-5463, (617) 624-5992 tty
<http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/violence/>
 Winter, 2005

Education Activities	Community Education		Professional Training		Total	
	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons
RCCs	1,117	39,026	165	3,183	1,282	42,209
Llámanos	4	406	21	308	25	714
Jane Doe Inc.	1	259	15	441	16	700
Total	1,122	39,691	201	3,932	1,323	43,623

Counseling and Client Advocacy Services

Individual counseling and client advocacy services were provided by local RCCs. Services included short-term individual counseling, medical client advocacy (including support during forensic evidence collection exams), legal client advocacy, police client advocacy, assistance accessing social services, and advocating on a client's behalf when the client is not actually present. Group counseling sessions were also provided by the RCCs and provided opportunities for individuals to support one another through the healing process.

Counseling and Client Advocacy Unduplicated Clients Served by RCCs	2,403
Total Individual Counseling and Client Advocacy Sessions	10,877
Counseling Sessions	6,663
Medical Client Advocacy Sessions	448
Legal Client Advocacy Sessions	285
Police Client Advocacy Sessions	40
Other Client Advocacy Sessions	66
Collateral Sessions (advocating on client's behalf when client not present)	3,375
Group Counseling Sessions Conducted	1,375

For more information about sexual assault-related data, please see the Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sapss/>. If you need help, please contact your local rape crisis center. See attached list for details.

¹ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2003. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Center for Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation, Department of Public Health.

